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Letter draft to "Dear Father" from Thomas G. Clemson

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LETTER DRAFT TO "DEAR FATHER" BY ORPHANED THOMAS GREEN CLEMSON IN DECEMBER, 1832
-- seen at approx. 103rd page of his 1832-1837 European pocket journal.

Paris Dec^r 7 1832

Dear Father

My Aunt has received several letters of late from Ms^r Messchert in his last he acknowledges the receipt of a draft on him, for \$30,000, which he did not honor, and which you have not though[t] it worth acknowledging, on account of which my Aunt thinks herself very much neglected.

Since last April I have not had the pleasure of a letter from you. I hope on the receipt of this you will favour me with one: I wrote my last the day before we left Paris 8th Sept.

We both enjoy the best of blessings, good health and spirits, and hope when you receive this you and all the rest of my dear relations may be enjoying the same.

We rejoice to hear that ~~Old Hickory has been reelected~~ you have all escaped the cholera.

We know of no information of remarriage by Thomas's mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Baker Clemson. If he had no stepfather, this letter would have been, as it seems to have been, written to his guardian, John B. Gest, Sr., second cousin of his father, Thomas G(reen) Clemson, Sr., and a resident of Philadelphia.

In this private journal, Thomas referred to his aunt consistently as "my Aunt", only. One would look first to his mother's family for her identification, as well as "Aunt Messchert", who by journal entry on 24 Aug 1836 recognized at Belfast the place where she was born and places she used to visit in the family; and Aunt Koch or Kock, also seemingly a surname. Thomas's aunts in the Clemson family were, all eight, Quakers of Pennsylvania.

Although the dated journal entries begin in June, 1832, this letter places Thomas in Europe from April, 1832, at the latest. No reference has been seen in the journal entries to the Royal School of Mines or the Royal Mint, or those student times.

-- Charles R. Clemson, Lancaster, Pa., 1979.